



DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Dale J Schmidt Sheriff Scott Mittelstadt Chief Deputy



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For more information contact: Sergeant Jermey Wolfe

Dodge County Sheriff's Office to participate in "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" holiday campaign

The Dodge County Sheriff's Office is joining law enforcement agencies across Wisconsin during the "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" campaign from Friday, December 18, 2020 through New Year's Day, January 1, 2021. During the national holiday campaign, law enforcement agencies across Wisconsin will patrol in greater numbers, for longer hours, watching for impaired drivers.

"About every three hours in Wisconsin, someone is injured or killed in an alcohol-related crash," Sergeant Jermey Wolfe said. "This campaign is not about simply stopping or arresting motorists. It's about saving lives and preventing needless tragedies."

During the pandemic, studies have shown that crash victims had a higher prevalence of alcohol, marijuana and opioids in their system than prior to it. We need all drivers to make smart, responsible decisions and not make 2020 any worse." Drivers can be arrested for OWI even if their alcohol level is below .08, even if drugs are not involved.

Last year in Wisconsin, there were 6,058 alcohol-related crashes that injured 2,918 people and resulted in 140 deaths (about one-quarter of all traffic fatalities). There were 23,803 convictions for OWI.

While alcohol-impaired drivers remain a concern, a growing problem involves drug-impaired drivers - people whose ability to safely operate a motor vehicle is compromised by legal or illegal drugs including prescription and over-the-counter medications.

To help combat impaired driving, Wisconsin has:

- 5,223 police officers trained in Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE) to help detect and remove impaired drivers from the roadways;
- 310 highly-trained Drug Recognition Experts - among the most in the nation;
- [23 multi-jurisdictional high-visibility enforcement task forces](#) operating throughout the year, across the state.

Citizens can help in several ways:

- If you plan to celebrate, identify a sober designated driver or find a safe alternative way home. Never allow someone to get behind the wheel impaired.
- Protect yourself and your passengers every time you travel. Ensure everyone is buckled up. Watch your speed and eliminate distractions.
- Download the free “Drive Sober” mobile app from the [WisDOT website](#). The app includes a “find a ride” feature to help locate mass transit and taxi services;
- Some taverns and restaurants have programs to provide patrons a [safe ride home](#).
- If you encounter a driver you suspect is impaired, call 911. Provide as much detail as possible on the driver, vehicle and location.

“Drivers impaired by alcohol or other drugs risk the safety of everyone along our roadways,” Sergeant Jermev Wolfe said. “During the Drive Sober campaign and throughout the year, our goal is to help ensure all travelers reach their destinations safely.”

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